

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Fall Exercises of the Third Shock Army and Retransfer of Units Involved

25X1

EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 20 October 1954

25X1

REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

25X1

REMARKS                     This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. During the fall exercises in the Letzling Heath, the units attacked in an area bordered to the right by Neu-Derben west of Genthin - Birkholz - Tangerhuetten-area south of Gardelegen and to the left by Burg-area north of Colbitz-Born. The final phase on 3 October apparently concentrated in the Dolle area. Major air force elements were employed there. On 5 October, the retransfer by road and rail of the units involved in the exercises was still under way. 25X1
2. On 1 October, maneuvers were held north of the autobahn in the Burg area. At 1740, a column of 60 trucks                      4 rocket launchers and 6 prime movers with heavy guns was seen in this area. Two Pö-2 aircraft escorted the column. Several low-level attacks against the barracks installations in Hillersleben by 4 MiG-15s were observed on 2 and 3 October. A Soviet major and a barracks employee stated that, at 1430 on 3 October, a large Soviet headquarters including Marshal Shukov and the former German Field Marshal Paulus arrived at Hillersleben. 25X1
3. At 1600 on 4 October, a column of 28 trucks with pontoons, 4 trucks with personnel and amphibious vehicle DUKW-353 was seen en route toward north on the Jerichow-Havelberg road in line with Hohengoehren. The soldiers wore black-bordered black epaulets.                      At 1030 on 4 October, a column of 28 trucks with pontoons, 1 motorboat, 1 crane truck and 120 soldiers wearing black-bordered black epaulets was seen on the Stendal-Tangermünde road.                      25X1
4. Between 1700 and 1900 on 2 October, several columns totaling approximately 180 motor vehicles, 122-mm field howitzers and 37-mm AA guns returned to the barracks installations of the Stendal post                      25X1  
                      
After the arrival of the columns, the Tauentzien Kaserne (5584) appeared to be occupied to capacity. 1 25X1
5. At 0915 on 6 October, a train, the engine of which was headed toward Wittenberge, was seen at the Stendal railroad station. The shipment consisted of 4 flatcars with armored scout cars and 8 x 57-mm AT guns, 25X1

25X1

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

-2-

25X1

13 flatcars with motor vehicles and approximately 120 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia, and 12 T-34 tanks [REDACTED]

25X1

6. On 5 October, a train of 25 flatcars and 8 boxcars was seen at the Wustermarke railroad station. The train was headed toward Berlin and carried billeting equipment, motor vehicles [REDACTED] and approximately 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. At 1700 on 5 October, a shipment of 18 flatcars with motor vehicles including [REDACTED] 6 x 81-mm AA guns and approximately 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia was seen at the Haemerten railroad station east of Stendal. The train was headed toward Berlin. At 1800, two trains were seen at the Stendal railroad station. The first train consisted of 22 flatcars with 4 x 37-mm AA guns, motor vehicles including [REDACTED] 1 radio truck and 6 boxcars with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. The second train consisted of 28 flatcars with 4 x 37-mm AA guns and motor vehicles and 8 boxcars with 250 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. <sup>2</sup>
7. On 30 September, the Nachrichten Kaserne (5286) in Magdeburg was vacant. The Seeckt Kaserne (5287) in Magdeburg had apparently been reoccupied in early October. <sup>2</sup>
8. At 1800 on 3 October, engineer troops with the following materiel returned to the Seeckt Kaserne (5287) in Magdeburg: about 120 trucks, 75 pontoons, 5 motorboats, and 1 truck with hoisting gear. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] On 3 October, the Herrenkrug Kaserne (5283), Magdeburg, was occupied almost to capacity and the Nachtichten Kaserne (5286), Magdeburg, was about 30 percent occupied. <sup>3</sup>
9. At 0840 on 4 October, 32 x 122-mm field howitzers, approximately 45 trucks, 2 repair shop trucks, 2 radio trucks, 4 jeeps, 4 sedans and 2 field kitchens returned by road to the Pionier Kaserne (5442) in Rathenow. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] At about 1930, the units were followed by a column of 20 to 24 x 122-mm field howitzers, 45 to 50 trucks, 1 radio truck, 3 repair shop trucks and 9 field kitchens. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
10. At 1830 on 4 October, 48 x 160-mm mortars, approximately 55 trucks [REDACTED] 3 tank trucks, 3 repair shop trucks, 4 jeeps, 1 sedan and 3 field kitchens entered the Infanterie Kaserne (5441) in Rathenow.
11. At 1130 on 7 October, 40 new unnumbered trucks and 8 rocket launchers [REDACTED] were detained at the Rathenow Nordbahnhof and left for the Kraftfahrer Kaserne (5443). <sup>4</sup>

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

5

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

SECRET

-3-

Comment. Units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div or corps units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps probably returned from fall exercises of the Third Shock Army.

25X1

Comment. [redacted] the four trains carried units of the 32d AAA Div which apparently returned to their posts from exercises of the Third Shock Army. Elements of the division had left for these exercises from Kuestrin and Frankfurt/Oder on 25 and 26 September. [redacted]

25X1

Comment. Units of the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GSFG which departed for exercises of the Third Shock Army on 27 September, returned to the Seeckt Kaserne. [redacted] The elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div stationed in the Herrenkrug Kaserne had also returned from these exercises prior to 3 October, but elements of the 63d Gds Mecz Regt of the division stationed in the Nachrichten Kaserne were still absent on that day.

25X1

25X1

Comment. According to other reports, units of the 25th Gds RL Brig and the 65th Mort Brig returned to their installations from exercises of the Third Shock Army on 4 October. [redacted] The present report indicates that the bulk of the 18th How Arty Brig also returned to the post from these exercises on 4 October. The numbers of weapons mentioned, however, appear too high for the brigade. The observations during the return movement indicate that the units of the IV Arty Corps are distributed in the installations of the Rathenow post as before.

25X1

25X1

Comment. Information on the assembly area for, and units participating in the maneuvers of the Third Shock Army has previously been forwarded. Paragraphs 6 and 9 of the present report indicate that units of the 32d AAA Div and the 18th How Arty Brig also participated. The assumption that units of the LXXIX Mtz Rifle Corps were employed as enemy forces in the Elbe section north of Burg is confirmed by the present report, particularly by paragraphs 4, 7, and 8. Available information indicates that the reinforced IX Mtz Rifle Corps started the attack from its known assembly area in a northwesterly direction on about 29 September and, according to paragraph 1, advanced across the Altengrabow training grounds. The transfer to Altengrabow of major elements of the unidentified Engr Regt of the GSFG and the 122th Gds Engr Bn of the 6th Gds Mecz Div from Bernburg on 12 and 14 September respectively possibly indicate that major preparations for the attack (obstacles, mine fields?) were made in the area of the firing range. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

On 1 October, the first elements apparently reached and crossed the Elbe River in the Burg - Neu-Derben section. Major preparations were probably also made for the river crossing. Between 11 and 27 September, engineer elements of the following units arrived in the Guesen-Perchland-Tangermuende area: engineers of the GSFG with new track-laying amphibious vehicles from Sperenberg, the IX Mtz Rifle Corps from Schwerin, the 88th Engr Regt (?) of the Second Gds Mecz Army from Templin and the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of the GSFG from Magdeburg. This concentration of engineer units indicates the importance of the river crossing during the exercise. It is possible that new methods of river crossing were tried out. After the crossing of the Elbe River, the exercises terminated in the Dolle area on 3 October. Since the units which represented the enemy forces did not participate in the final phase of the exercise, they are believed to have returned to their posts on 2 and 3 October. The retransfer of the units, which was first observed in the evening on 3 October, continued until 7 October according to the present report. [redacted] The majority of the units could not be identified. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

SECRET